

WEL

- Then than the ill; and know, my dear,
Kindness, and constancy will prove
The only pillars fit to bear
So vast a weight as that of love. *Prior.*
4. Gravity; heaviness; tendency to the center.
Heaviness or weight is not here considered as being such a
natural quality, whereby condensed bodies do of themselves
tend downwards; but rather as being an affection, whereby
they may be measured. *Wilkins.*
- The shaft that slightly was impress'd,
Now from his heavy fall with weight increas'd,
Drove through his neck. *Dryden.*
- What natural agent impel them so strongly with a transverse
force blow against that tremendous weight and rapidity, when
whole worlds are falling? *Bentley.*
5. Pressure; burthen; overwhelming power.
Thou art no Atlas for so great a weight. *Shakespeare.*
- Now from his heavy fall with weight increas'd,
Drove through his neck. *Dryden.*
- To good malignant, to bad men benign,
Under her own weight groaning. *Milton.*
- We must those, who groan beneath the weight
Of age, disease, or want, commiserate. *Denham.*
- The prince may carry the plough, but the weight lies upon
the people. *L'Estrange.*
- Possession's load was grown so great,
He sunk beneath the cumbrous weight. *Swift.*
6. Importance; power; influence; efficacy.
How to make ye suddenly an answer,
In such a point of weight, so near mine honour,
In truth I know not. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*
- If this right of heir carry any weight with it, if it be the
ordinance of God, must not all be subject to it. *Locke.*
- To make the sense of esteem or disgrace sink the deeper,
and be of the more weight, other agreeable or disagreeable
things should constantly accompany these different states. *Locke.*
- An author's arguments lose their weight, when we are per-
suaded that he only writes for argument's sake. *Addison.*
- See, Lord, the sorrows of my heart,
Ere yet it be too late;
And hear my Saviour's dying groans,
To give those sorrows weight. *Addison's Spectator.*
- The solemnities that encompass the magistrate add dignity
to all his actions, and weight to all his words. *Atterbury.*
- WEIGHTILY. *adv.* [from *weight*.]
1. Heavily; ponderously.
2. Solidly; importantly.
- Is his poetry the worse, because he makes his agents speak
weightily and sententiously? *Broom's Notes on the Odyssey.*
- WEIGHTINESS. *n. f.* [from *weight*.]
1. Ponderosity; gravity; heaviness.
2. Solidity; force.
- I fear I have dwelt longer on this passage than the weightiness
of any argument in it requires. *Locke.*
3. Importance.
The apparent defect of her judgment, joined to the weighti-
ness of the adventure, caused many to marvel. *Hayward.*
- WEIGHTLESS. *adj.* [from *weight*.]
1. Light; having no gravity.
How by him balanc'd in the weightless air?
Can't thou the wisdom of his works declare? *Sandys.*
2. Not possible to be weighed. Improper.
It must both weightless and immortal prove,
Because the centre of it is above. *Dryden.*
- WEIGHTY. *adj.* [from *weight*.]
1. Heavy; ponderous.
You have already weary'd fortune so,
She cannot farther be your friend or foe;
But sits all breathless, and admires to feel
A fate so weighty, that it stops her wheel. *Dryden.*
2. Important; momentous; efficacious.
I to your assistance do make love,
Masking the business from the common eye
For sundry weighty reasons. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*
- No fool Pythagoras was thought:
Whilst he his weighty doctrines taught,
He made his listening scholars stand,
Their mouth still cover'd with their hand:
Else, may-be, some odd-thinking youth,
Less friend to doctrine than to truth,
Might have refus'd to let his ears
Attend the music of the spheres. *Prior.*
- Thus spoke to my lady the knight full of care,
Let me have your advice in a weighty affair. *Swift.*
3. Rigorous; severe. Not in use.
If, after two days thine, Athens contains thee,
Attend our weightier judgment. *Shakespeare. Timon.*
- WE'LLAY. *interj.* [This I once believed a corruption of *weal*
away, that is, *Lapine's* is gone: so *Junius* explained it; but
the Saxon exclamation is palapa, *weo on weo*: from *wealaway*, is
formed by corruption *we'aday*.] Alas.
Harrow now out, and wealaway, he cried,
What dismal day hath sent this cursed light! *Spenser.*

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- Ah, *wealaway*! most noble lords, how can
Your cruel eyes endure so piteous light? *Fairy Queen.*
- We'away*, the while I was so fond,
To leave the good that I had in hand. *Spenser.*
- WE'LCOME. *adj.* [from *venu*, French; *plume*, Saxon; *wel-*
kom, Dutch.]
1. Received with gladness; admitted willingly to any place or
enjoyment; grateful; pleasing.
I serve you, madam: *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- Your graces are right welcome. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- He, though not of the plot, will like it,
And with it should proceed; for, unto men
Prest with their wants, all change is ever welcome. *B. Joff.*
- Here let me earn my bread,
Till oft invocated death
Hasten the welcome end of all my pains. *Milton.*
- He that knows how to make those he converses with easy,
has found the true art of living, and being welcome and valued
every where. *Locke.*
2. To bid WELCOME. To receive with professions of kindness.
Some stood in a row in so civil a fashion, as if to welcome
us; and divers put their arms a little abroad, which is their
gesture when they bid any welcome. *Bacon.*
- WE'LCOME. *interj.* A form of salutation used to a new comer,
elliptically used for *you are welcome*.
Welcomes, he said,
O long expected to my dear embrace. *Dryden.*
- WE'LCOME. *n. f.*
1. Salutation of a new comer.
Welcomes ever smiles, and farewell goes out sighing. *Shakespeare.*
2. Kind reception of a new comer.
I should be free from injuries, and abound as much in the
true causes of welcome, as I should find want of the effects
thereof. *Shakespeare.*
- I look'd not for you yet, nor am provided
For your fit welcome. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- Madam, new years may well expect to find
We come from you, to whom they are so kind:
Still as they pass they court and smile on you,
And make your beauty as themselves seem new. *Waller.*
- Where diligence opens the door of the understanding, and
impartiality keeps it, truth finds an entrance and a welcome
too. *South's Sermons.*
- To WELCOME. *v. a.* To salute a new comer with kindness.
I know no cause
Why I should welcome such a guest as grief,
Save bidding farewell to so sweet a guest
As my sweet Richard. *Shakespeare. Richard II.*
- They stood in a row in so civil a fashion, as if to welcome
us. *Bacon.*
- Thus we salute thee with our early song,
And welcome thee, and wish thee long. *Milton.*
- To welcome home
His warlike brother, is Pirithous come. *Dryden.*
- 'Tis he lark and linnet strain their warbling throats,
To welcome in the Spring. *Dryden.*
- WE'LCOME to our House. *n. f.* An herb. *Answarth.*
- WE'LCOMENESS. *n. f.* [from *welcome*.] Gratefulness.
Our joys, after some centuries of years, may seem to have
grown older, by having been enjoyed so many ages; yet will
they really still continue new, not only upon the scores of their
welcome, but by their perpetually equal, because infinite,
distance from a period. *Boyle.*
- WE'LCOMER. *n. f.* [from *welcome*.] The saluter or receiver of
a new comer. *Shakespeare.*
- WE'LD, or WULD. *n. f.* [from *luteola*, Latin.] Yellow weed, or
dyers weed.
Its leaves are oblong and intire: it has an anomalous flower,
consisting of many dissimilar leaves: the fruit is globular, hol-
low, and divided into three parts. The dyers use it for dying
bright yellows and lemon colours; and this is by some sup-
posed to be the plant used by the ancient Persians in painting
their bodies. *Milton.*
- To WELD. *v. a.* To weld. *Spenser.*
- To WELD. *v. a.* To beat one mass into another, so as to in-
corporate them.
Sparkling or welding heat is used when you double up your
iron to make it thick enough, and so weld or work in the
doubling into one another. *Maxon's Mech. Exer.*
- WE'LDER. *n. f.* A term perhaps merely Irish; though it may
be derived from *To weld*, to *turn* or *manage*: whence *welder*,
welder.
- Such immediate tenants have others under them, and so a
third and fourth in subordination, till it comes to the *welder*,
as they call him, who sits at a rack-rent, and lives mile-
rably. *Swift.*
- WE'LFARE. *n. f.* [well and fare.] Happiness; success; prosperity.
If friends to a government to bear their assistance, they put
it

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- it in the power of a few desperate men to ruin the welfare of
those who are superior to them in strength and interest. *Add.*
- Discretion is the perfection of reason: cunning is a kind of
instinct that only looks out after our immediate interest and
survival. *Addison's Spectator.*
- To WELK. *v. a.* [Of this word in *Spenser* I know not well the
meaning: peacock, in Saxon, is to *roll*; *wocken*, in German,
and *jelen*, in Saxon, are clouds; whence I suppose *welk*,
welk or *whilk* is an undulation or corrugation, or corrugated
or convoluted body. *Wilk* is used for a small shell fish.] To
cloud; to obscure.
- Now bid Winter welk'd hath the day,
And Phœbus, weary of his yearly task,
Establish'd hath his steeds in lowly lay,
And taken up his inn in fishes' haik. *Spenser.*
- As gentle shepherd in sweet eventide,
When ruddy Phœbus 'gins to welk in West,
Marks which do bite their halcy supper best. *Fairy Queen.*
- The welk'd Phœbus 'gan avail
His weary wain. *Spenser.*
- WE'LD. *adj.* Wrinkled; wreathed.
Methought his eyes
Were two full moons: he had a thousand noses,
Horns welk'd and wad'd like the enridged sea. *Shakespeare.*
- WE'LD. *n. f.* [from peacock, to roll, or jelen, clouds, Sax.]
1. The visible regions of the air. Out of use, except in poetry.
Ne in all the welkin was no cloud. *Chaucer.*
- He leaves the welkin way most beaten plain,
And apt with whirling wheels inflames the skyen,
With fire not made to burn, but fairly for to shine. *Fa. Qu.*
- The swallow peeps out of her nest,
And cloudy welkin clears. *Spenser's Pastoral.*
- Spur your proud horses hard, and ride in blood;
Amaze the welkin with your broken blades. *Shak. R. III.*
- With seats of arms
From either end of heav'n the welkin burns. *Milton.*
- Now my task is smoothly done,
I can fly, or I can run
Quickly to the green earth's end,
Where the bow'd welkin flow doth bend. *Milton.*
- Their hideous yells
Rend the dark welkin. *Philips.*
2. WELKIN. *Eye*, is, I suppose, blue eye; skycoloured eye.
Yet were it true
To say this boy were like me! Come, sir page,
Look on me with your welkin eye, sweet villain. *Shakespeare.*
- WELK. *n. f.* [yellow, pell, Saxon.]
1. A spring; a fountain; a source.
Begin then, sisters of the sacred well,
That from beneath the seat of Jove doth spring. *Milton.*
- As the root and branch are but one tree,
And well and stream do but one river make;
So if the root and well corrupted be,
The stream and branch the same corruption take. *Davies.*
2. A deep narrow pit of water.
The muscles are so many well-buckets: when one of them
ads and draws, 'tis necessary that the other must obey. *Dryden.*
3. The cavity in which flairs are placed.
Hollow newell'd flairs are made about a square hollow
newel: suppose the well-hole to be eleven foot long, and six
foot wide, and we would bring up a pair of flairs from the first
floor eleven foot high, it being intended a sky-light shall fall
through the hollow newel. *Moson's Mech. Exer.*
- To WEL. *v. n.* [peallan, Saxon.] To spring; to issue as from
a spring.
Thereby a crystal stream did gently play,
Which from a sacred fountain welled forth away. *Fa. Qu.*
- The bubbling wave did ever freshly well. *Fairy Queen.*
- A dreary corse,
All wallow'd in his own yet lukewarm blood,
That from his wound yet welled fresh, alas! *Spenser.*
- Himself affixes to lift him from the ground,
With clotted locks, and blood that welled from out the
wound. *Dryden's Æn.*
- From his two springs,
Pure welling out, he through the lucid lake
Of fair Dambea rolls his infant stream. *Thomson's Summer.*
- To WEL. *v. a.* To pour any thing forth.
To her people wealth they forth do well,
And health to every foreign nation. *Fairy Queen.*
- WE'LL. *adj.* [Well seems to be sometimes an adjective, though it
is not always easy to determine its relations.]
1. Not sick; not unhappy.
Mark, we use
To say the dead are well. *Shakespeare. Ant. and Cleopatra.*
- Lady, I am not well, else I should answer
From a full flowing stomach. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*
- In poison there is physick; and this news,
That would, had I been well, have made me sick,
Being sick, hath in some measure made me well. *Shakespeare.*
- While thou art well, thou mayest do much good; but when
thou art sick, thou canst not tell what thou shalt be able to do:

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- it is not very much nor very good. Few men mend with sick-
ness, as there are but few who by travel and a wandering life
become devout. *Taylor's Guide to Devotion.*
- Men under irregular appetites never think themselves well,
so long as they fancy they might be better; then from better
they must rise to best. *L'Estrange.*
- 'Tis easy for any, when well, to give advice to them that
are not. *Wake's Preparation for Death.*
2. Convenient; happy.
Holdings were so plentiful, and holders so scarce, as well
was the landlord, who could get one to be his tenant. *Carver.*
- Charity is made the constant companion and perfection of
all virtues; and well it is for that virtue where it most enters,
and longest stays. *Spratt's Sermons.*
- This exactness is necessary, and it would be well too, if it
extended itself to common conversation. *Locke.*
- It would have been well for Genoa, if she had followed
the example of Venice, in not permitting her nobles to make
any purchase of lands in the dominions of a foreign prince. *Ad.*
3. Being in favour.
He followed the fortunes of that family; and was well
with Henry the fourth. *Dryden.*
4. Recovered from any sickness or misfortune.
I am sorry
For your displeasure; but all will sure be well. *Shakespeare.*
- Just thoughts, and modest expectations are easily satisfied.
If we don't over-rate our pretensions, all will be well. *Cilician.*
- WELL. *adv.* [well, Gothick; pell, Saxon; wel, Dutch; wel,
Hollandic.]
1. Not ill; not unhappily.
Some sense, and more estate, kind heav'n
To this well-lotted peer has given:
What then? he must have rule and sway;
Else all is wrong till he's in play. *Prior.*
2. Not ill; not wickedly.
My bargains, and well-won thrift he calls int'rest. *Shaks.*
- Thou one bad act with many deeds well done
Mayst cover. *Milton.*
3. Skillfully; properly.
A private caution I know not well how to fort, unless I
should call it political, by no means to build too near a great
neighbour. *Wotton.*
- Beware and govern well thy appetite.
Whether the learn'd Minerva be her theme,
Or chaste Diana bathing in the stream;
None can record their heavenly praise so well. *Dryden.*
- What poet would not mourn to see
His brother write as well as he? *Swift.*
4. Not amiss; not unsuccessfully; not erroneously.
Solymann commended them for a plot so well by them laid,
more than he did the victory of others got by good fortune, not
grounded upon any good reason. *Kneller.*
- The soldier that philosopher well blam'd,
Who long and loudly in the schools declaim'd. *Denham.*
- 'Tis almost impossible to translate verbally and well. *Dryden.*
5. Not insufficiently; not defectively.
The plain of Jordan was well watered every where. *Genesis.*
- We are well able to overcome it. *Nim. xiii. 30.*
- The merchant adventurers being a strong company, and
well underfitted with rich men, held out bravely. *Bacon.*
6. To a degree that gives pleasure.
I like well, in some places, fair columns upon frames of
carpenters work. *Bacon.*
7. With praise; favourably.
All the world speaks well of you. *Pope.*
8. Well is sometimes like the French *bien*, a term of concession.
The knot might well be cut, but untied it could not be. *Stany.*
- To know
In measure what the mind can well contain. *Milton.*
9. It is a word by which something is admitted as the ground
for a conclusion.
Well, let's away, and say how much is done. *Shakespeare.*
- Well, by this author's confession, a number superior are
for the succession in the house of Hanover. *Swift.*
10. As well as. Together with; not less than.
Coptos was the magazine of all the trade from Æthiopia,
by the Nile, as well as of those commodities that came from
the west by Alexandria. *Arbuthnot on Coins.*
11. Well is him or me; bene est, he is happy.
Well is him that dwelleth with a wife of understanding, and
that hath not slipped with his tongue. *Ecclesi. xxv. 8.*
12. Well nigh. Nearly; almost.
I freed well nigh half th' angelick name. *Milton.*
13. It is used much in composition, to express any thing right,
laudable, or not defective.
Antiochus understanding him not to be well affected to his af-
fairs, provided for his own safety. *2 Macc. iv. 21.*
- There may be safety to the well-affected Persians; but to
those which do conspire against us, a memorial of de-
struction. *Ezra. xvi. 23.*
- Should a whole host at once discharge the bow,
My well-aim'd shaft with death prevents the foe. *Pope.*
- What